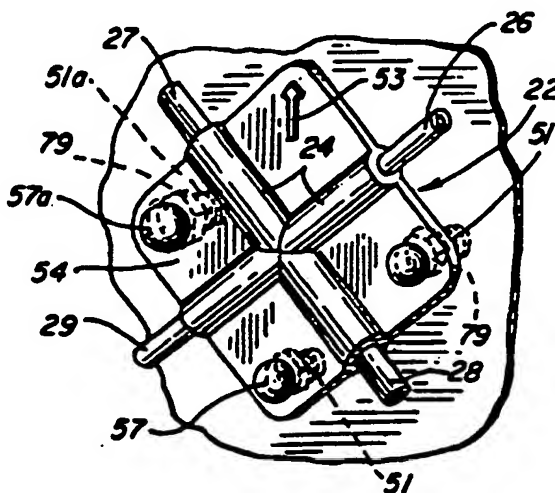




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(54) Title: PERITONEAL DIALYSIS APPARATUS



(57) Abstract

Automated peritoneal dialysis apparatus for providing dialysis solution to a patient and including bracket means (51, 51a) for receiving and holding a multiple junction connector (22) of a flexible conduit set member (20) carried by the apparatus. The bracket means (51, 51a) is adapted to hold the multiple junction connector (22) in only a single position of orientation, whereby flexible conduits (26-29) of the set member extending from the connector are naturally directed toward their intended destination stations.

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PERITONEAL DIALYSIS APPARATUSTechnical Field and Prior Art

5 This application relates to improvements in apparatus for providing peritoneal dialysis solution to a patient in an automated manner.

Automated peritoneal dialysis solution apparatus are known to the art, being illustrated for example by Agarwal et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,096,859, Tirkkonen U.S. Patent No. 3,783,866, and
10 Lasker et al. U.S. Patent No. 3,872,863.

Basically, the peritoneal dialysis apparatus provides a preprogrammed administration of typically warmed peritoneal dialysis solution to the peritoneal cavity of a patient in desired quantities, and then permits it to be withdrawn at a
15 predetermined time. Several different peritoneal dialysis therapies, for example CCPD and IPD, can be provided by the use of apparatus of this type.

As a disadvantage, automated peritoneal dialysis apparatus is cumbersome. Generally, large quantities of dialysis solution
20 are required, typically being provided by a number of large bags of solution. There is typically a heater bag in which the dialysis solution is heated in individual aliquots. There is tubing leading to and from the patient and between the bags, and also there is likely to be a drain/weigh bag, and also a large
25 waste dialyzate bag, plus the tubing interconnecting all parts. As the result of this, as a disposable dialysis solution set is removed from its package, the user of prior designs faces a great tangle of lines and bags which must be installed onto the dialysis hardware apparatus, with the risk that the confusing
30 array of lines and bags can be incorrectly installed onto the apparatus, with undesirable consequences.

In accordance with this invention an improvement is provided which greatly facilitates the installation of interconnected bags and tubing of the flexible conduit set member which is



carried by the hardware apparatus, and through which the dialysis solution passes so that the user can easily install the set member onto the hardware apparatus without confusion and error of installation. Also, a significant decrease in the amount of tubing necessary for the flexible conduits is provided when compared with many prior art configurations, for a significant cost savings, and conventional solution containers may be attached to the set member of this invention for simplification of use and reduction of cost of the set member.

Description of the Invention

The automated peritoneal dialysis apparatus may have a dialysis solution supply station, a dialysis solution heating station, a dialysis solution volume measuring station, in which the volume of dialysis solution may be measured indirectly by its weight, a pump station for moving the dialysis solution, and valve means for controlling dialysis solution flow around the apparatus.

In accordance with this invention, bracket means may be provided for receiving and holding a multiple junction connector, such as an X connector, of a flexible-conduit set member carried by the apparatus. The bracket means may be adapted to hold the multiple junction connector in only a single position of orientation, with the result that flexible conduits of the set member extending from the multiple junction connector are naturally directed toward their intended destination stations. While the four channel X connector is preferred, other multiple junction connectors of three, five, or more intersecting channels may also be used in this invention. For convenience of usage, the term "X connector" is intended to include other multiple junction connectors as equivalents thereto.

Preferably, the bracket means may define a plurality, typically at least three, pins of differing diameter to pass



through corresponding apertures of a mounted X connector for retention thereof in a single position of orientation. The pins may define enlarged outer ends to provide snap-fit retention for a mounted X connector.

- 5 The pump station used in this invention may define track means for installing a plurality of separate tubing sections of the set member, and a single pump rotor member for simultaneously pumping fluid through the tubing sections. One of the tubing sections passing through the pump station may
10 communicate between the X connector and the dialysis solution supply station, while the other of the tubing sections passing through the pump station may communicate between the dialysis solution volume measuring station and a drain. The drain may be a large drain container such as a drain bag, or the tubing may
15 simply pass to an open drain, as may be desired.

- Additionally, the hardware apparatus of this invention may be used in conjunction with a flexible-conduit set member which may contain peritoneal dialysis solution and which may be disposable, being made of plastic material. The
20 flexible-conduit set member may include flexible tubing communicating with the X connector, with one or more flexible solution containers attached to the flexible tubing, if desired. Other flexible tubing also communicates with other branches of the X connector and terminates in coupler members,
25 which may, for example, be simple medical connecting spikes, or may be more complex couplers such as threaded couplers of known design or the like. One of the other flexible tubings may define at least two connected branch tubings which also terminate in coupler members of the type described above. The
30 first-mentioned flexible tubing or the attached container may also define a branch tubing extending therefrom.

 The way such a flexible-conduit set member can be used in accordance with this invention, and the advantages thereof, is described below.



The X connector described above may define flange means, the flange means defining, in turn, a plurality of apertures of differing size, to permit installation of the multiple junction connector on a bracket of the peritoneal dialysis hardware apparatus, typically of the type described herein, in only a single position of orientation. Pins of the bracket of the peritoneal dialysis hardware apparatus pass through the apertures to retain the X connector on the bracket in the single position of orientation.

10 The pins may define enlarged outer ends to provide snap-fit retention for a mounted X connector, and may be disposed in a triangular pattern.

The pump station may define multiple track means for installing in opposed relation separate tubing sections of the set member, and a single pump rotor member for simultaneously pumping fluid through both of the tubing sections.

15 One of the flexible tubings or a connected branch tubing of the flexible tubing set may be connected to a manifold tube, the manifold tube being connected at its other end to a one-piece molded plastic manifold. A plurality of manifold branch tubes are connected to the plastic manifold, with the manifold branch tubes terminating in coupler members and carrying flow clamps. Thus, access connections to a large plurality of solution containers may be provided.

25

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a perspective view of peritoneal dialysis apparatus, having a flexible-conduit container and set member carried thereon.

30 Figure 2 is a front perspective view of the X connector of the set member, carried on the bracket member of the peritoneal dialysis hardware apparatus of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a back perspective view of the X connector of Figure 2.



Figure 4 is an elevational view of a clamp of the apparatus of Figure 1 used in the valve means for controlling dialysis solution flow around the apparatus.

Figure 5 is an elevational view of the pump station of the apparatus of Figure 1.

Figure 6 is a plan view of the flexible-conduit container and set member shown in Figure 1 with an optionally added five port manifold set assembly.

10 Description of Specific Embodiment

Referring to Figures 1-6, Figure 1 shows peritoneal dialysis apparatus 19 of this invention with a flexible-conduit container and set member 20 carried thereon. At the heart of set 20 is X connector 22 which, as particularly shown in Figures 2, 3 and 6, may be a molded plastic piece with four interconnected conduits 24 which respectively communicate in sealed relation with first through fourth flexible tubings 26-29. Thus the flexible tubings are all interconnected and in common flow relationship by means of X connector 22.

20 Flexible tubing 26 defines a pair of branch tubings 30, 31, each of tubings 26, 30, 31 terminating in a conventional spike connector 32. Flexible tubing 26 is directed by its orientation from X connector 22 toward a rack 34 on dialysis apparatus 19 which carries dialysis solution bags 36, 36a in hanging relationship, thus serving as the dialysis solution supply station. Flexible tubings 26, 31 are spiked into bags 36 while bag 36a, intended to be the last bag of solution used in the dialysis process, communicates with flexible tubing branch 30.

30 Flexible tubing 27 is directed by X connector 22 upwardly to the dialysis solution heating station 38, which may include an electrical resistance heater to heat dialysis solution bag 40 as it resides on station 38. A thermostat may also be present to control the temperature to the desired level, plus a scale or load cell to weigh the contents of bag 40.



Flexible tubing 28 may communicate between X connector 22 and bag 42, which may be integrally attached to the rest of the set, and which may be carried in a dialysis solution volume measuring station at electronic scale member 44. As shown in
5 Figure 1, bag 42 may hang on electronic scale member 44 for electronic readout of the weight of the bag, from which the volume of dialysis solution present in bag 42 may be inferred.

Branch conduit 46 may communicate between bag 42 of tubing 28 and a drain directly, or with drain bag or other container 48
10 carried on lower shelf member 50 of the dialysis machine 19. Conduit 46 terminates in a spike-receiving connector 47 to receive a spike from the drain bag or an extension set.

It should be noted that the various flexible conduits of Figure 6 are all illustrated in broken form so that their
15 relative lengths are not intended to be shown. The specific selection of their relative lengths is, of course, an entirely routine manner depending upon the nature of dialysis machine with which set 20 is used.

Flexible tubing 29 extends from X connector 22 and
20 communicates at its other end in this particular embodiment with a flanged connector 52, which is capable of receiving a spike of a patient's transfer set. The transfer set, in turn, communicates through a catheter to the patient's peritoneal cavity. Connector 52 and the spike from the transfer set may be
25 so proportioned as to be locked together by a commercially available Connection Shield sold by Travenol Laboratories, Inc., of Deerfield, Illinois, and presently used by most CAPD patients in the United States.

X connector 22, as particularly shown in Figures 2, 3, and
30 6, defines a flange 54 perforated by a plurality of apertures 56, 56a, typically three in number arranged in triangular array. Aperture 56a is of larger diameter than aperture 56.

As shown particularly in Figure 2, dialysis apparatus 19 carries a bracket member which comprises three pins 51, 51a
35 positioned in corresponding triangular array to the arrangement of apertures 56, 56a and proportioned so that pins 51, 51a can



pass through apertures 56, 56a in snap-fit relation thereto by the action of enlarged heads 57, 57a, to retain X connector 22 in only a single position of orientation on the bracket member defined by pins 51, 51a. This is so because larger pin 51a can
5 only pass through aperture 56a, while the smaller pins 51 will correspondingly enter into snap-fit relation with apertures 56.

Hex nuts 79 are provided as a fixed part of pins 51, 51a to facilitate their placement into threaded holes in the face of apparatus 19 as shown.

10 Thus, as the user removes set 20 from its box, a great deal of confusion with respect to what line goes where is eliminated by first attaching X connector 22 into its single position of orientation on dialysis apparatus 19. Thereafter, the flexible
15 tubings 26-29 are naturally directed into the direction they should go to reach their intended destination stations, i.e., dialysis solution supply station 34, dialysis solution heating station 38, dialysis solution volume measuring station 44, and finally the patient himself via line 29. One needs only to
20 extend the lines in the direction to which they are naturally pointed by X connector 22, to find the right station to which each flexible tubing is to go.

Sleeves 55 abut hex nuts 79 on the face of apparatus 19 to stabilize X connector 22 as it rests in position of use. Embossed arrow 53 points upwardly when connector 22 is properly
25 mounted.

The respective flexible tubings are threaded through clamp or valve members 58-62, each of said clamps or valves being of the type shown in Figure 4. As shown, flow through tubing 27 is controlled by clamp 58; flow through tubing 28 is controlled by
30 clamp 60; and flow through tubing 29 is controlled by clamp 59. Flow through tubing 26 is controlled by clamp 61, while flow through branch tubing 30 has a separate control clamp 62, so that bag 36a may flow through tubing 30 and part of tubing 26 even when clamp 61 is closed.



Referring in further detail to Figure 4, clamp or valve member 58 defines a movable rod 80 which can move in and out from housing 82, carrying side member 84. Tubing, for example tubing 27, fits into clamp member 58, resting in groove 86, being retained therein by side member 84. Inside of housing 82 spring apparatus biases side member 84 and shaft 80 into the closed position, collapsing tubing 27. A gear system, powered by an electric motor, can be actuated to extend shaft and side member 84 outwardly to a position to permit flow through tubing 27, while retraction of shaft 80 and side member 84 shuts off flow in tubing 27.

A peristaltic or roller type pump 64 is provided as a pump station, as shown in detail in Figure 5, with a track for receiving two separate lengths of flexible tubing, namely, tubings 26 and 46. Thus a single pump rotor 67 is provided, having rollers 71, so that pumping action takes place simultaneously in tubings 26, 46, with the nature and amount of fluid and flow being governed by clamps 58-62.

Pump 64 is typically adapted to only operate in one direction, but the separate, opposed mounting of tubings 26 and 46 provides the possibility of simultaneous flow in opposite directions in each tubing relative to the other. Closable, hinged lid 73 is provided to close the pump station 64.

Clips 63 are provided on apparatus 19 to retain tubing of set 20 in position.

Monitor and control panel 66 is provided, and thumb wheel switches 68 for cycle control are also present behind an openable panel as shown (Figure 1). Appropriate electronics are present for both, controlling the sequence of various cycles and the timing thereof, so that the apparatus of Figures 1-6 functions in the manner described below. The device of this invention can be alternatively programmed to operate in Continuous Cycling Peritoneal Dialysis, Continuous Intermittent Peritoneal Dialysis, Intermittent Peritoneal Dialysis, or other



modes of operation. The apparatus may also have microprocessor systems for functional checking of the device, and a light and buzzer to indicate any malfunctions, and to disable the system from operation in the event of significant malfunctions.

5 For functioning, power is turned on, and after the dialysis apparatus 19 has passed an internal diagnostics check, an indicator shall display this fact, and all five valves 58-62 are closed. Heater 38 can then be enabled by placing a dialysis solution bag upon it. The system then waits for a
10 start/continue button to be pushed in console 66. Upon doing so, an indication that it is in the set-up mode will be displayed and all valves will open. The user then sets up apparatus 19 for the particular peritoneal dialysis treatment modality to be employed by loading set 20 and connecting it with
15 the desired bags.

In Figures 1-6, a CCPD treatment modality is set up, with bags 36, 36a, and 40 being connected by spiking to flexible-conduit container and set member 20, with X connector 22 being attached to the bracket comprising pins 51, 51a as
20 shown, and bag 42 of set 20 being placed at volume measuring station 44. Tubing 26, 46 is loaded into pump 64 after priming of the system with solution from bag 40. After priming, manual clamps 69 may be closed until the operating cycles commence.

25 Tubings 26, 46 are then placed into the occluding roller system of pump 64. Sensing devices may be present to assure that the cyclor set tubing has been properly placed into the pump restricting slots 75 to properly engage pump occluding rollers 71, upon closure of the pump door.

Upon a second activation of the start/continue button, all
30 valves 58-62 close again. A monitor system may be used to indicate that each of the five valves has closed on tubing, so that in the event of a failure to provide proper valving of one of the tubings an alarm will sound. The valve in question can automatically open and wait for proper tubing placement while
35 all other valves remain closed, this being controlled by a microprocessor system.



To begin CCPD treatment, flexible tubing 29 is connected to the patient who, in a CCPD procedure, is carrying peritoneal dialysis solution in his peritoneal cavity. Connector 52 may be opened by removing protector 78 and connected to a peritoneal catheter or transfer set.

As a first, DRAIN, phase, valves 59 and 60 open, permitting draining of spent peritoneal dialysis solution from the patient through line 29, X connector 22, and line 28 into weigh bag 42, which may be a typically three liter solution bag. The final weight, translating to a given solution volume, may be recorded in the memory of a microprocessor system and displayed on console 66 for ultrafiltration calculations.

During the DRAIN phase, the scale in dialysis solution heater station 38 may be monitored to insure that it is maintaining a constant volume, as was preset into the cyclor during the set-up procedure. Dialysis solution should not enter or leave upper heater bag 40 during this period of time, and if there is a change of weight, such change of weight is an indication of a misloaded set or another system failure.

Weigh station 44 is also monitored by the microprocessor system for a no-flow condition, so that kinked tubing or other problems can be quickly caught and corrected. The user can set the desired duration of the DRAIN phase into the electronics of the system. When this time has elapsed, the apparatus will proceed to the FILL phase.

In the FILL phase, valve 60 closes, valve 58 opens, and valve 59 remains open. Dialysis solution from bag 40, warmed at heater 38, flows into the peritoneal cavity of the patient through tubing 27, X connector 22, and tubing 29. The scale of station 38 can be monitored by the microprocessor system so that only a preset fill volume passes to the patient, after which valves 58, 59 close. Flow is by gravity, no pump being used for flow to and from the patient.



If the scale in station 38 does not sense a decrease in volume, an alarm will be displayed so that the kinked tubing or other problem can be corrected. Likewise, if the specified time for the fill cycle runs out before the preprogrammed fill volume has been infused, as sensed by the scale means in station 38, an alarm can be sounded to inform the user of this fact.

Following this, the DWELL phase takes place, during which solution resides in the patient, pump 64 is activated, and valves 61, 58 are open, so that solution from bags 36 is pumped to bag 40 in the volume preset into the system by the user. The other valves are closed, particularly valve 59. Simultaneously, solution in bag 42 is pumped through conduit 46 to drain bag 48 or directly to a drain, as may be desired. During the DWELL phase, new solution in bag 40 will be heated at heater station 38, and its volume will be measured by the scale at station 38, for future calculation of ultrafiltration. The DWELL phase proceeds for a time preset by the user at console 66. Once again, each of the scales at stations 38, 44 is monitored after filling and draining is complete, and pump 64 stopped, to insure the stability of readout, showing that there is no leakage of solution into or out of either bags 40, 42. The microprocessor system can also monitor a no-flow condition during the dwell procedure indicating a malfunction in the filling or the draining of bags 40, 42.

As previously described, last bag 36a may contain a higher dextrose concentration for the patient to carry throughout the day in a CCPD procedure, or other medicaments or the like may be included in bag 36a. The microprocessor is given instructions through console 66, as it proceeds through the cycling of the apparatus, to open valve 62 rather than valve 61 in the DWELL phase when it is time to administer bag 36a. Prior to the administration of last bag 36a, left over normal solution existing in solution bag 40 may be drained directly to drain bag 48. Then, solution from last bag 36a is delivered to heater bag 40 for heating.



At the termination of the DWELL phase, a predetermined time, the apparatus recycles back to the DRAIN phase, at which valves 59, 60 are opened for draining of the spent dialysis solution from the patient's peritoneal cavity to the emptied bag 42

5 through X connector 22.

The apparatus of this invention thus recycles itself through the various phases: the DRAIN phase where fluid flows from the patient to bag 42, the FILL phase where liquid flows from bag 40 to the patient's peritoneal cavity, and the DWELL phase where
10 clamp or valve 59 is closed off to isolate the fluid in the peritoneal cavity, and pump 64 operates to both pump a predetermined amount of fresh dialysis solution from station 34 to the heating station 38, and to pump spent dialysis solution from bag 42 through drain line 46. This sequence of cycling can
15 repeat any desired number of times, terminating if desired with dialysis solution from the "last bag" 36a as programmed by the user on console 66.

The amount of ultrafiltration, i.e., water removed from the patient by the dialysis solution in a given cycle, is calculated
20 by the microprocessor system of the apparatus by subtracting the weight of solution administered to the patient from bag 40 in the FILL phase from the weight of solution recovered into bag 42 in the next DRAIN phase. This difference may then be displayed at console 66 for a direct ultrafiltration readout.

25 When it is desired to provide access to a larger supply of solution, a five port manifold set 81 as shown at Figure 6 may be brought into communication with the spike 32 on the end of tubing 26, 30, or 31 by removal of protector members 62, 89, and penetration of spike 32 into double flange connector member 88,
30 similar in design if desired to connector member 52. This connection may also be protected by the use of a clamshell type protector member similar to those sold by Travenol Laboratories, Inc. and previously described.



As shown in Figure 6, a single molded piece 90 defines an inlet port 92 for tubing 94 and five interconnecting apertures to which tubings 96 are connected so that there is interconnecting flow between tubing 94 and tubings 96. The ends of tubings 96 terminate in spike-type connectors 98 of conventional design and also carry pinch clamps 100. Thus, by this technique, any number of added connector spikes may be attached to set 20 of this invention for use of the set, for example, with an intermittent peritoneal dialysis procedure using larger quantities of dialysis solution.

The above has been offered for illustrative purposes only, and is not intended to limit the scope of the invention of this application, which is as defined in the claims below.



THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In automated peritoneal dialysis apparatus having a dialysis solution supply station, a dialysis solution heating
5 station, a dialysis solution volume measuring station, a pump station for moving said dialysis solution, and valve means for controlling dialysis solution flow around said apparatus, the improvement comprising, in combination:

10 bracket means for receiving and holding a multiple junction connector of a flexible-conduit set member carried by said apparatus, said bracket means being adapted to hold said multiple junction connector in only a single position of orientation, whereby flexible conduits of said set member
15 extending from said multiple junction connector are naturally directed toward their intended destination stations.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1 in which said bracket means defines a plurality of pins to pass through corresponding
20 apertures of a mounted multiple junction connector for retention thereof in a single position of orientation.

3. The apparatus of Claim 2 in which said pins define enlarged outer ends to provide snap-fit retention for a mounted
25 multiple junction connector.

4. The apparatus of Claim 3 in which said pins are disposed in a triangular pattern.

5. The apparatus of Claim 1 in which said pump station
30 defines multiple opposed track means for installing separate tubing sections of said set member and a single pump rotor member for simultaneously pumping fluid through both of said tubing sections.



member for simultaneously pumping fluid through both of said tubing sections.

6. In automated peritoneal dialysis apparatus having a
5 dialysis solution supply station, a dialysis solution heating station, a dialysis solution volume measuring station, a pump station for moving said dialysis solution, valve means for controlling dialysis solution flow around said apparatus, and a flexible-conduit set member carried by said apparatus with
10 containers connected to said set member respectively carried by said dialysis solution supply station, dialysis solution heating station, and dialysis solution volume measuring station, the improvement comprising, in combination:

15 bracket means for receiving and holding an X connector of said flexible conduit set member carried by said apparatus, an X connector as part of said set member carried on said bracket means, said X connector providing four way intercommunication with flexible tubings respectively communicating with (1) the dialysis solution supply station, (2) the dialysis solution
20 heating station, (3) the dialysis solution volume measuring station, and (4) a connector adapted for flow communication with the peritoneal cavity of the patient, said X connector and bracket means being adapted to cause the X connector to be holdable in only a single position of orientation in the bracket
25 means, whereby the flexible tubings communicating with the X connector and extending therefrom are naturally directed toward their intended destination stations.

7. The apparatus of Claim 6 in which said bracket means
30 defines a plurality of pins of differing diameter, and said X connector comprises a plurality of apertures of corresponding, differing diameter, with said pins penetrating said apertures.

8. The apparatus of Claim 7 in which three of said pins are



present, disposed in a triangular pattern.

9. The apparatus of Claim 8 in which said pins define enlarged outer ends to provide snap-fit retention of the X
5 connector.

10. The apparatus of Claim 7 in which said pump station defines track means for installing separate tubing sections of said container and set member into said pump station, and a
10 single pump rotor member for simultaneously pumping fluid through both of said tubing sections, one of said tubing sections installed in said track means communicating between the X connector and the dialysis solution supply station, and another of said separate tubing sections communicating from the
15 dialysis solution volume measuring station to drain.

11. A flexible-conduit set member, which comprises:
a flexible container;
flexible tubing communicating between said container and an
20 X connector;
other flexible tubings communicating with said X connector and terminating in coupler members, one of said other flexible tubings defining at least two connected branch tubings terminating in coupler members, one of said container and its
25 connecting flexible tubing also defining a branch tubing extending therefrom.

12. The container and set member of Claim 11 in which said X connector defines flange means, said flange means defining a
30 plurality of apertures of differing size, to permit installation of said X connector on a bracket of peritoneal dialysis apparatus in only a single position of orientation.

13. The container and set member of Claim 12 in which one



of the other flexible tubings or a connected branch tubing thereto is connected to a manifold tube, said manifold tube being connected at its other end to a one-piece, molded plastic manifold, a plurality of manifold branch tubes being connected
5 to said plastic manifold, said manifold branch tubes terminating in coupler members and carrying flow clamps.

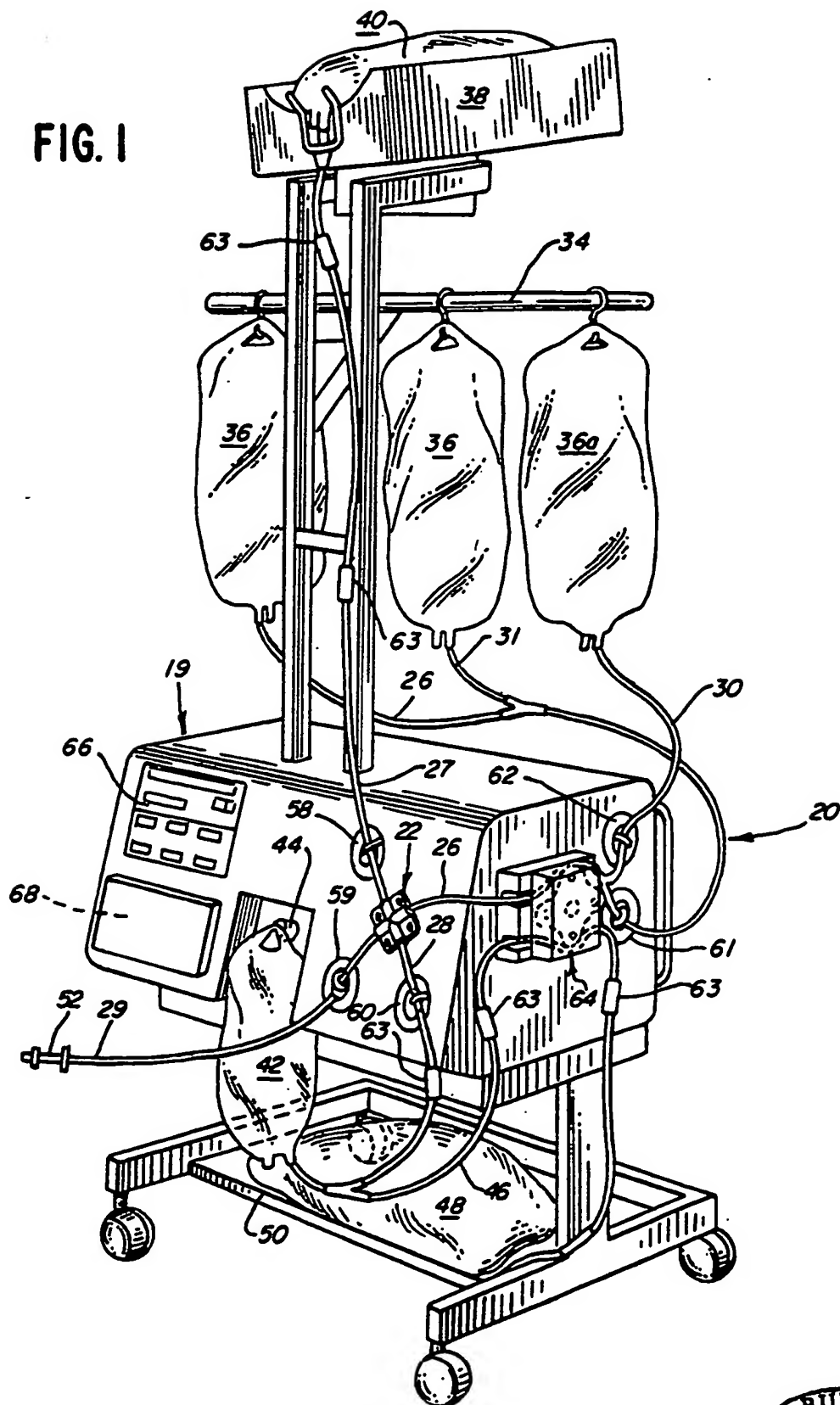
14. The flexible conduit set member of Claim 12 in which one side of said X connector defines sleeves surrounding said
10 apertures and projecting outwardly to stabilize the X connector as it rests against a flat surface in position of use.

15. A flexible conduit set member which comprises: an X connector, four lengths of flexible tubing communicating with
15 said X connector at one end and terminating in coupler members at the other end, one of lengths of said flexible tubing defining at least two connected branch tubings terminating in coupler members.

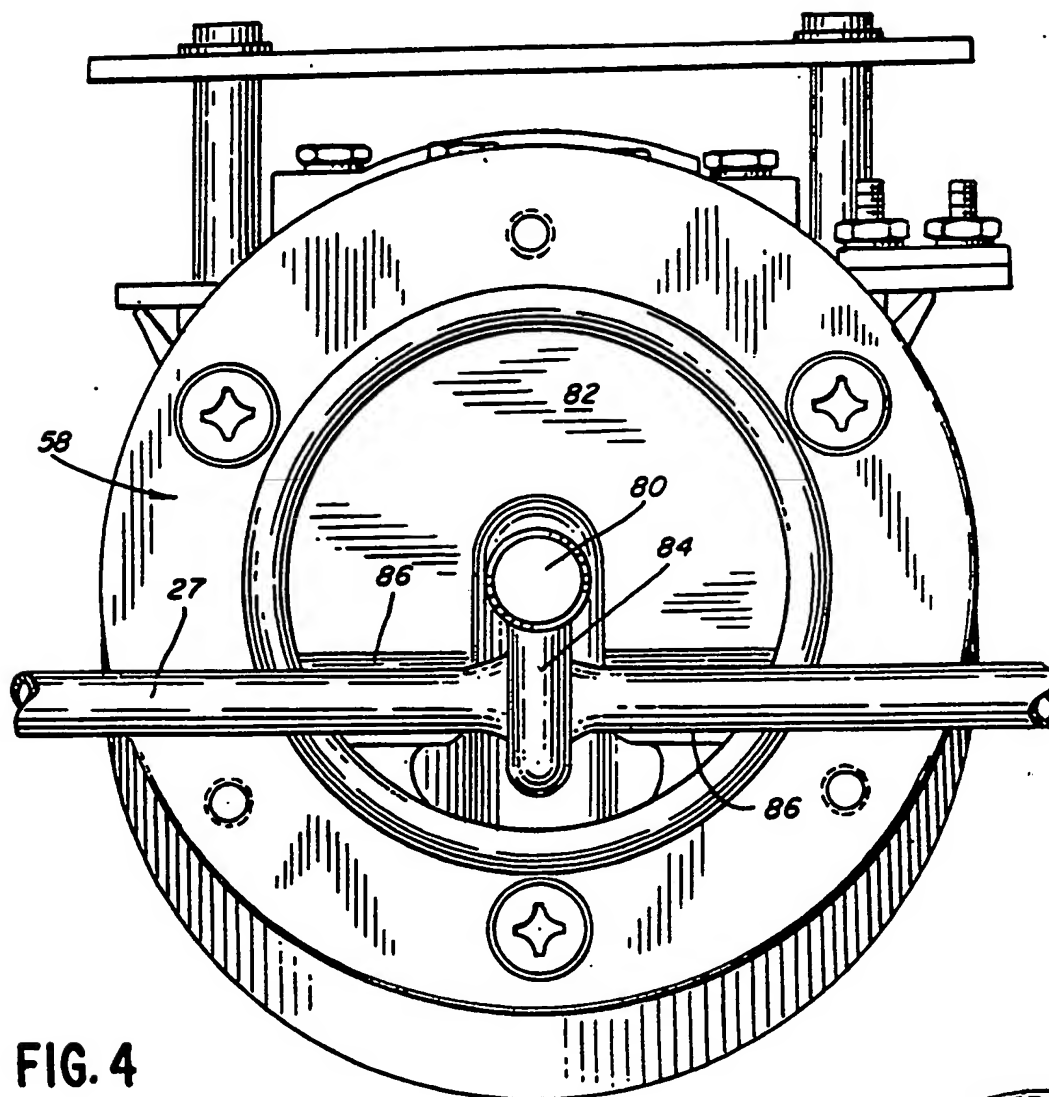
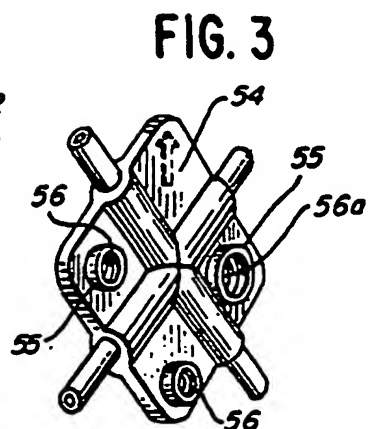
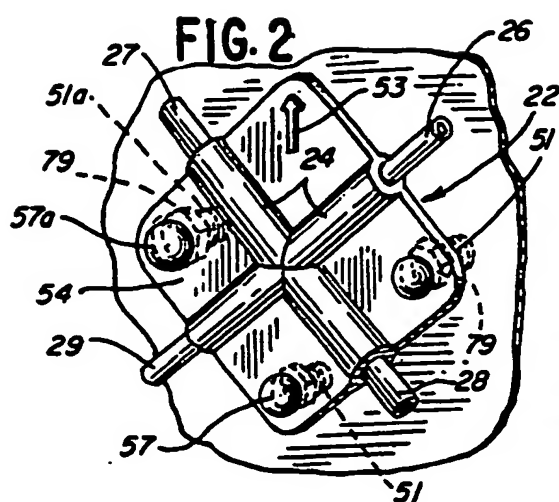


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FIG. 1



2 / 4



3 / 4

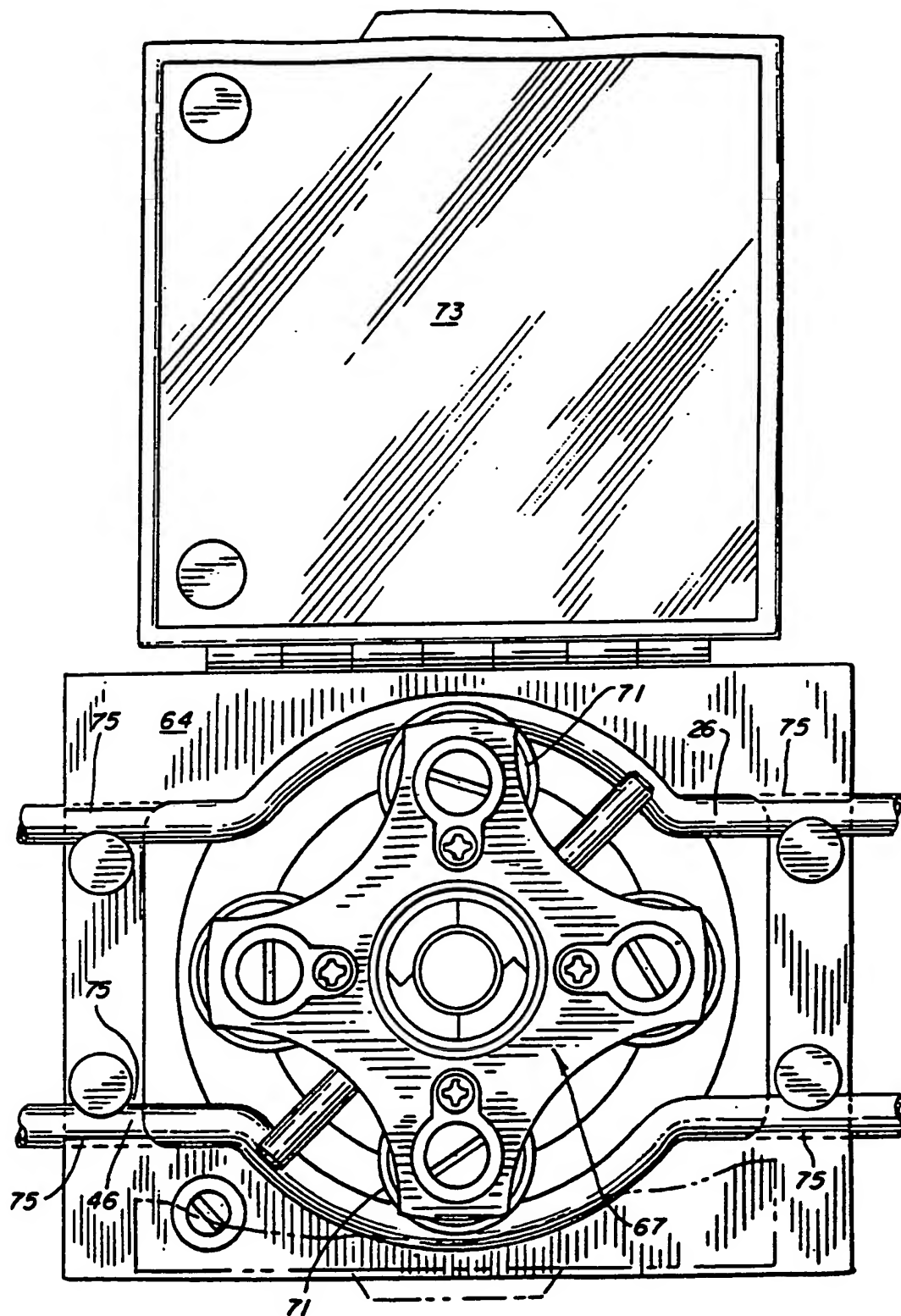
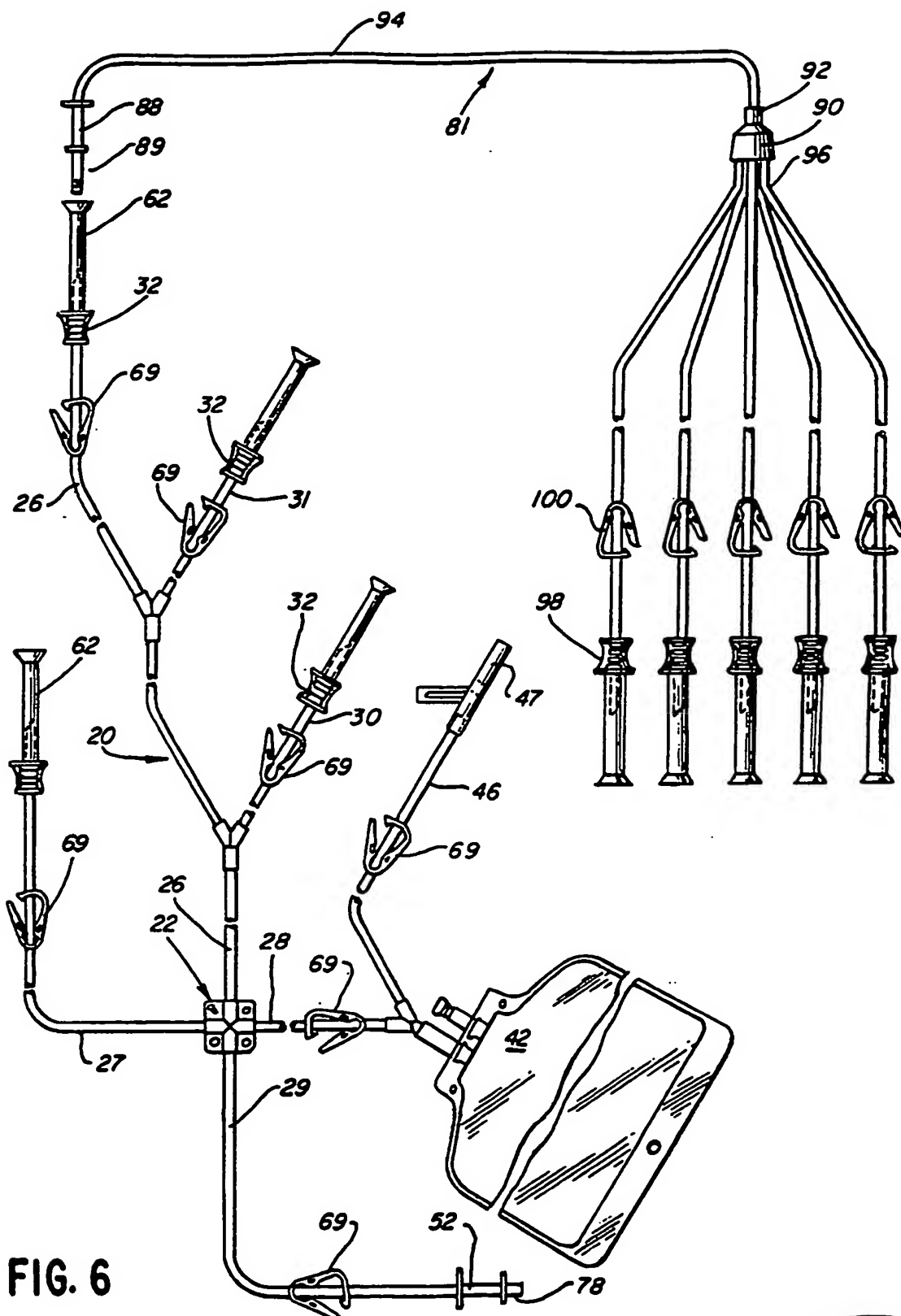



FIG. 5

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/US84/01461

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ¹		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC ² US: 604/283; 604/29; 285/150 1PC: A61M 5/00		
II. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum Documentation Searched ⁴		
Classification System	Classification Symbols	
U.S.	604/4-6, 27-29, 33-34, 249-250, 80-81, 174, 283, 410; 285/150	
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the extent that such Documents are included in the Fields Searched ⁵		
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT¹⁴		
Category ⁶	Citation of Document, ¹⁶ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹⁷	Relevant to Claim No. ¹⁸
Y	US, A, 2658776 (WILCOX) 10 November 1953 (10.11.53)	(1-15)
Y	US, A, 2839320 (HILL) 17 June 1958 (17.06.58)	(1-15)
A	US, A, 3872863 (LASKER et al) 25 March 1975 (25.03.75)	(1, 6)
A	US, A, 3916948 (BENJAMIN) 4 November 1975 (04.11.75)	(6, 11)
A	US, A, 4096859 (AGARWAL et al) 27 June 1978 (27.06.78)	(1, 6)
Y; A	US, A, 4190047 (JACOBSEN et al) 26 February 1980 (26.02.80)	(1-4, 6-9, 11-15); (5, 10)
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>¹⁵ Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</p> <p>"Δ" document member of the same patent family</p> </div> </div>		
IV. CERTIFICATION		
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search ¹		Date of Mailing of this International Search Report ²
23 October 1984		06 NOV 1984
International Searching Authority ³		Signature of Authorized Officer ²⁰
ISA/US		 C. FRED ROSENBAUM

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET

A	US, A, 4239041 (POPOVICH et al) 16 December 1980 (16.12.80)	(11, 15); (1, 6)
Y;A	US, A, 4240408 (SCHAEEL) 23 December 1980 (23.12.80)	(1-4, 6-9, 11-15); (5, 10)
Y	US, A, 4257416 (PRAGER) 24 March 1981 (24.03.81)	(11, 15)

V. ☐ OBSERVATIONS WHERE CERTAIN CLAIMS WERE FOUND UNSEARCHABLE ¹⁰

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2) (a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claim numbers _____, because they relate to subject matter ¹² not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claim numbers _____, because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out ¹³, specifically:

VI. ☐ OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING ¹¹

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims of the international application.

2. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims of the international application for which fees were paid, specifically claims:

3. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claim numbers:

4. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the International Searching Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by applicant's protest.
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT (CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET)		
Category *	Citation of Document, 16 with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages 17	Relevant to Claim No 18
Y	US, A, 4379452 (DeVries) 12 April 1983 (12.04.83)	(5, 10-11, 13, 15)
A;Y	US, A, 4381003 (BUONCRISTIANI) 26 April 1983 (26.04.83)	(1, 6); (11, 13, 15)
A,P	US, A, 4425113 (BILSTAD) 10 January 1984 (10.01.84)	(1, 11, 13, 15)
A,P	US, A, 4425116 (BILSTAD et al) 10 January 1984 (10.01.84)	(1, 11, 13, 15)
A,P	US, A, 4428745 (WILLIAMS) 31 January 1984 (31.01.84)	(1, 11, 13, 15)